



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**GARY SANITARY DISTRICT
Black Oak Storm Sewer Planning and Design
SRF # CS182 25801**

Date: October 30, 2008

Comments must be received by December 1, 2008

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) has determined that the project described here and in Addendum #3 (i.e., Agreement for Professional Services emailed to the SRF on October 24, 2008) will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a Preliminary Decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

The purpose of this notice is to seek input and comments on the SRF's preliminary decision that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required to implement the recommendations discussed in the attached Categorical Exclusion.

How were environmental issues considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an EA or an EIS.

Why is additional environmental review not required?

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

How do I submit comments?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted within 30 days of the above date to:

Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
100 North Senate Ave.; IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204

What happens next?

If we do not receive substantive comments during the 30-day comment period which indicate that serious environmental issues exist, the SRF's preliminary decision will become final. If the scope of the project changes significantly, the final notice will be revoked and the project's environmental impacts will be reevaluated. In such a case, a new Categorical Exclusion may be issued for another 30-day comment period, or the SRF Loan Program will prepare an EA or EIS; we may also reaffirm our earlier decision of Categorical Exclusion by issuing a memo or letter to the project's State Revolving Fund Official Loan File.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Gary Sanitary District Addendum #3
Black Oak Storm Sewer Addition Planning & Design
3600 West 3rd Avenue
Gary, IN 46406

SRF Project Number: CS 182 258 01

Authorized Representative: Ms. Luci Horton, Director

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The Gary Sanitary District is located the northwest corner of Lake County. No construction is associated with this project.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

During the final design phase of the Black Oak Sanitary Sewer project, the District's consulting engineers discovered that several storm water inlets were directly connected to the sanitary sewer in the area. To comply with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the Clean Water Act, the District must disconnect those storm water inlets by installing a separate storm sewer to convey the clear water to a nearby ditch.

No construction is associated with this project. This project will only plan and design the proposed storm sewer and its outfall to the receiving stream. The actual construction project will be implemented later.

The no-action alternative was rejected, since the District must disconnect storm water sources from the sanitary sewer system. The selected alternative will remove the illegal connections to the sanitary sewer and send the storm water to a receiving ditch instead of to the wastewater treatment plant.

IV. PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

Planning and Design Engineering Services	\$ 70,560
TOTAL	\$ 70,560

B. To conduct the planning and design engineering services, the District will use unspent funds remaining from the SRF loan which the city closed on August 29, 2000; these unspent funds totaled \$10,792,916 as of October 10, 2008. Prior to the final design on the proposed filter rehabilitation, the District will submit to the SRF Program its preliminary design for review and approval; the preliminary design will identify the recommended alternatives, including site information for environmental review coordination. Final design will not occur until after the SRF Loan Program completes environmental review coordination and approves the preliminary design. Construction will occur on a later date.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Since this project will consist only of planning and design services, there will be no negative environmental impacts. This project has no potential affect to historic sites. Our finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The SRF did not require the District to hold a public hearing, in part since the District will not need to close on another SRF loan to pay for the project.